

PATENT

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Multipoint-to-point transmission method for sending frames of data from ~~at least two~~ a plurality of sending nodes via one or more forwarding nodes to one receiving node in an ATM network wherein each frame of data is partitioned into cells, comprising the steps of:
one of the plurality of sending nodes includes a first label and a second label into each of the cells, the first label representing an identification of the routing of the cell and the second label representing an identification of the source of the cell;
~~the sending nodes include a first label into each of the cells representing an identification of the routing of the cell;~~
~~the sending nodes include a second label into each of the cells representing an identification of the source of the cell;~~
the forwarding node ~~concurrently~~ swaps both the first label associated with a forward direction and the second label associated with a backward direction using the swapping table; and
wherein the first label is written in and read from a VPI field of the respective cell and the second label is written in and read from a VCI field of the respective cell.
2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
the forwarding node swaps the first and the second label according to the same swapping table.

PATENT

3. (Previously Canceled)
4. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
the swapping of the second label is carried out for the same ports of the respective forwarding nodes as for the first label.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sending frames of data in a multipoint-to-point fashion from ~~at least two~~ a plurality of sending nodes via one or more forwarding nodes to one receiving node in an ATM network wherein each frame of data is portioned into cells, comprising:
in one of the plurality of sending nodes, means for including a first label and a second label into each of the cells, the first label representing an identification of the routing of the cell and the second label representing an identification of the source of the cell;
~~in the sending nodes, means for including a first label into each of the cells representing an identification of the routing of the cell;~~
~~in the sending nodes, means for including a second label into each of the cells representing an identification of the source of the cell;~~
in the forwarding node, means for ~~concurrently~~ swapping both the first label associated with a forward direction and the second label associated with a backward direction using the swapping table; ~~and~~
in the forwarding node, with respect to the second label, means for entering the swapping table in the column of the

PATENT

output labels and reading the corresponding input label;
and
wherein the first label is written in and read from a VPI
field of the respective cell and the second label is
written in and read from a VCI field of the respective
cell.

7. (original) Apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:
in the forwarding node, means for swapping the first and the second label according to the same swapping table.
8. (Previously Canceled)
9. (Previously Added) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the means for swapping the second label is carried out for the same ports of the respective forwarding node as for the first label.
10. (Canceled)
11. (currently amended) Multipoint-to-point transmission method for sending frames of data from ~~at least two~~ a plurality of sending nodes via one or more forwarding nodes to one receiving node in an ATM network wherein each frame of data is partitioned into cells, comprising the steps of:
one of the plurality of sending nodes includes a first
label and a second label into each of the cells, the first
label representing an identification of the routing of the
cell and the second label representing an identification of
the source of the cell;

PATENT

~~the sending nodes include a first label into each of the cells representing an identification of the routing of the cell;~~

~~the sending nodes include a second label into each of the cells representing an identification of the source of the cell;~~

the forwarding node ~~concurrently~~ swaps both the first label associated with a forward direction and the second label associated with a backward direction using the swapping table; ~~and~~

with respect to the second label, the forwarding node enters the swapping table in the column of the output labels and reads the corresponding input label; and wherein the first label is written in and read from a VPI field of the respective cell and the second label is written in and read from a VCI field of the respective cell.

12. (previously added) Method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:
the forwarding node swaps the first and the second label according to the same swapping table.
13. (Canceled)
14. (previously added) Method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:
the swapping of the second label is carried out for the same ports of the respective forwarding node as for the first label.
15. (Canceled)

PATENT

16. (Canceled)